

# DES MOINES REGISTER/CNN/MEDIACOM IOWA POLL

SELZER & COMPANY

602 likely Democratic caucusgoers

Margin of error:  $\pm 4.0$  percentage points

Compared to:

Study #2190

433 Likely in-person Democratic caucus attenders

Margin of error:  $\pm 4.7$  percentage points

Study #2185

401 likely Democratic caucusgoers

Margin of error:  $\pm 5.0$  percentage points

Study #2182

455 likely Democratic caucusgoers

Margin of error:  $\pm 4.6$  percentage points

Study #2196

September 14-18, 2019

3,510 active registered voters

weighted by age, sex, and congressional district

June 2-5, 2019

3,776 active registered voter contacts

weighted by age, sex, and congressional district

March 3-6, 2019

1,618 active registered voter contacts

weighted by age and sex

December 10-13, 2018

1,838 active registered voter contacts

weighted by age and congressional district

**Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.**

First, how likely is it you will attend the Democratic party caucuses scheduled for February of 2020—will you definitely attend, probably attend, might or might not attend, or probably not attend?

**Dec-18, Mar-19:** How likely is it you will attend one of the caucuses scheduled for February of 2020 when presidential candidates will be on the agenda—will you definitely attend, probably attend, or probably not attend? (If definitely or probably attend, ask:) Will you attend the Democratic or the Republican caucus? [Mar-19: Note to interviewer: If respondent asks, virtually or in person? The words I have are “attend.” In other words, offer no further clarification.]

**#Jun-19:** This year the Democratic caucuses will be a little different. In addition to the regular meetings on caucus night, the Democratic Party of Iowa will convene virtual caucuses to take place online or by phone on several days leading up to the traditional, in-person caucus meetings on February 3rd. Do you think you would definitely participate in the 2020 caucuses—either in person or in a virtual caucus—probably participate, might or might not participate, or probably not participate?

	Definitely attend Democratic caucus	Probably attend Democratic caucus	Might or might not attend Democratic caucus	Probably not attend Democratic caucus	Not sure
Sep-19	60	40	-	-	-
#Jun-19	62	38	-	-	-
Mar-19	50	50	n/a	-	-
Dec-18	57	43	n/a	-	-

#Jun-19: Percentages are among likely Democratic caucus participants who said they would definitely or probably attend in person as opposed to participating in a virtual caucus.

Have you in the past attended party caucuses to show your preference for presidential candidates, or would this be your first time to participate? **(If attended in the past, ask:) Was that a Republican caucus, a Democratic caucus, or both?**

**Mar-19, Jun-19: Have you attended caucuses in the past or will this be your first caucus? (If attended in past, ask:) Was that a Republican caucus, a Democratic caucus, or both?**

	Attended Republican caucus in the past	Attended Democratic caucus in the past	Attended both	First caucus	Not sure
<b>Sep-19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-</b>
#Jun-19	4	72	7	17	-
Mar-19	6	62	7	25	1
Dec-18	11	60	7	21	-

Now, I'm going to mention some candidates for the Democratic nomination for president. For each, please tell me if your feelings are very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know enough about the person to answer, just say so. **(Record "don't know" as "not sure." Rotate list.)**

		Net Fav	Net Unf	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Michael Bennet, U.S. senator from Colorado	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>57</b>
	#Jun-19			3	16	9	3	70
	Mar-19			3	15	5	2	75
Joe Biden, former vice president of the United States	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>29</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>
	#Jun-19			34	38	14	10	4
	Mar-19			45	37	8	6	4
	Dec-18			47	35	11	4	4
Cory Booker, U.S. senator from New Jersey	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>18</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>
	#Jun-19			20	35	13	6	26
	Mar-19			13	39	9	5	33
	Dec-18			18	31	6	6	39
Steve Bullock, governor of Montana	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>59</b>
	#Jun-19			5	14	8	2	71
	Mar-19			2	8	8	3	79
	Dec-18			2	9	5	3	82
Pete Buttigieg, mayor of South Bend, Indiana	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>
	#Jun-19			32	29	7	5	26
	Mar-19			5	12	7	4	73
Julián Castro, former U.S. secretary of Housing and Urban Development	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29</b>
	#Jun-19			7	27	10	4	53
	Mar-19			7	27	5	3	58
	Dec-18			6	21	7	3	63
Bill de Blasio, mayor of New York City	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>
	#Jun-19			2	14	28	14	40
	Mar-19			2	19	21	8	51
John Delaney, former U.S. representative from Maryland	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>49</b>
	#Jun-19			6	21	13	5	55
	Mar-19			5	22	8	5	61
John Delaney, U.S. congressman from Maryland	Dec-18			6	19	7	4	64
Tulsi Gabbard, U.S. representative from Hawaii	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>43</b>
	#Jun-19			5	18	11	9	57
	Mar-19			5	17	9	6	64

#Jun-19: Percentages are among likely Democratic caucus participants who said they would definitely or probably attend in person as opposed to participating in a virtual caucus.

## Favorability, continued.

		Net Fav	Net Unf	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Kamala Harris, U.S. senator from California	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>23</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>
	#Jun-19			31	32	8	5	23
	Mar-19			23	35	4	5	33
	Dec-18			19	29	6	4	41
Amy Klobuchar, U.S. senator from Minnesota	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>17</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26</b>
	#Jun-19			12	32	14	4	38
	Mar-19			13	30	9	6	41
	Dec-18			16	22	5	3	54
Beto O'Rourke, former U.S. representative from Texas	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>13</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>
	#Jun-19			15	39	13	8	25
	Mar-19			19	33	8	4	36
Beto O'Rourke, U.S. congressman from Texas	Dec-18			28	25	7	4	36
Tim Ryan, U.S. representative from Ohio	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>59</b>
	#Jun-19			2	14	10	4	70
Bernie Sanders, U.S. senator from Vermont	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>
	#Jun-19			32	37	17	8	5
	Mar-19			37	34	16	9	4
	Dec-18			43	31	12	10	4
Joe Sestak, former U.S. representative from Pennsylvania	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>72</b>
Tom Steyer, businessman	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>41</b>
Tom Steyer, hedge fund manager and activist	<b>Dec-18</b>			5	15	14	6	61
Elizabeth Warren, U.S. senator from Massachusetts	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>44</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
	#Jun-19			38	33	10	7	12
	Mar-19			25	38	12	8	17
	Dec-18			30	35	7	16	14
Marianne Williamson, author	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>42</b>
	#Jun-19			2	7	11	7	73
Marianne Williamson, author and activist	Mar-19			1	7	7	4	80
Andrew Yang, businessman	<b>Sep-19</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>32</b>
	#Jun-19			5	14	10	5	66
	Mar-19			2	5	7	5	81
	Dec-18			1	4	6	6	83

#Jun-19: Percentages are among likely Democratic caucus participants who said they would definitely or probably attend in person as opposed to participating in a virtual caucus.

Which one of the following Democrats would be your first choice for president? **(Read list and rotate.)**

And who would your second choice be? **(If None of these or Not sure in first choice question, record “No first choice” in second choice question and do not ask. Read list only if necessary.)**

**(Ask all.)** I’m going to read the list one more time, excluding any names you may have already mentioned. This time, please tell me if the person is someone you are actively considering or not. Just answer yes or no. **(Read list, excluding answers to first and second choice questions. Mark all yeses. Same order as first choice question.)**

		First Choice	Second Choice	Total selecting as either first or second choice (added across columns, not recalculated)	Actively considering	Candidate footprint (Added across columns, not recalculated: 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> choice and actively considering)
Michael Bennet	Sep-19	-	1	1	8	9
	#Jun-19	1	-	1	8	9
	Mar-19	1	1	2	n/a	n/a
Joe Biden	Sep-19	20	10	30	30	60
	#Jun-19	23	13	36	25	61
	Mar-19	27	19	46	n/a	n/a
	Dec-18	32	18	50	n/a	n/a
Cory Booker	Sep-19	3	4	7	35	42
	#Jun-19	1	6	7	36	43
	Mar-19	3	3	6	n/a	n/a
	Dec-18	4	7	11	n/a	n/a
Steve Bullock	Sep-19	1	-	1	8	9
	#Jun-19	-	1	1	9	10
	Mar-19	1	*	1	n/a	n/a
	Dec-18	*	*	*	n/a	n/a
Pete Buttigieg	Sep-19	9	9	18	37	55
	#Jun-19	15	9	24	28	52
	Mar-19	1	1	2	n/a	n/a
Julián Castro	Sep-19	1	1	2	20	22
	#Jun-19	1	-	1	20	21
	Mar-19	1	2	3	n/a	n/a
	Dec-18	1	-	1	n/a	n/a
Bill de Blasio	Sep-19	*	*	*	7	7
	#Jun-19	*	*	*	6	6
	Mar-19	*	*	*	n/a	n/a
John Delaney	Sep-19	1	-	1	9	10
	#Jun-19	1	1	2	16	18
	Mar-19	1	-	1	n/a	n/a
	Dec-18	1	-	1	n/a	n/a
Tulsi Gabbard	Sep-19	2	1	3	12	15
	#Jun-19	-	2	2	12	14
	Mar-19	-	2	2	n/a	n/a
Kamala Harris	Sep-19	6	10	16	39	55
	#Jun-19	6	14	20	32	52
	Mar-19	7	11	18	n/a	n/a
	Dec-18	5	6	11	n/a	n/a
Amy Klobuchar	Sep-19	3	4	7	30	37
	#Jun-19	2	1	3	29	32
	Mar-19	3	3	6	n/a	n/a
	Dec-18	3	2	5	n/a	n/a

An asterisk indicates the candidate received no responses. A dash indicates at least one respondent selected the candidate, but the percentage rounds down to zero.

#Jun-19: Percentages are among likely Democratic caucus participants who said they would definitely or probably attend in person as opposed to participating in a virtual caucus.

		First Choice	Second Choice	Total selecting as either first or second choice (added across columns, not recalculated)	Actively considering	Candidate footprint (Added across columns, not recalculated: 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> choice and actively considering)
Beto O'Rourke	Sep-19	2	2	4	34	38
	#Jun-19	2	4	6	33	39
	Mar-19	5	6	11	n/a	n/a
	Dec-18	11	12	23	n/a	n/a
Tim Ryan	Sep-19	*	*	*	7	7
	#Jun-19	*	-	-	7	7
Bernie Sanders	Sep-19	11	10	21	29	50
	#Jun-19	16	11	27	29	56
	Mar-19	25	13	38	n/a	n/a
	Dec-18	19	14	33	n/a	n/a
Joe Sestak	Sep-19	*	-	-	4	4
Tom Steyer	Sep-19	2	1	3	18	21
	Dec-18	-	1	1	n/a	n/a
Elizabeth Warren	Sep-19	22	20	42	29	71
	#Jun-19	15	14	29	32	61
	Mar-19	9	12	21	n/a	n/a
	Dec-18	8	10	18	n/a	n/a
Marianne Williamson	Sep-19	-	-	-	6	6
	#Jun-19	*	-	-	6	6
	Mar-19	-	*	-	n/a	n/a
Andrew Yang	Sep-19	2	2	4	20	24
	#Jun-19	1	1	2	13	15
	Mar-19	-	-	-	n/a	n/a
	Dec-18	-	1	1	n/a	n/a
None of these (VOL)	Sep-19	2	1		13	
	#Jun-19	7	2		8	
	Mar-19	3	2		n/a	
	Dec-18	4	3		n/a	
Not sure	Sep-19	14	7		2	
	#Jun-19	6	5		5	
	Mar-19	10	6		n/a	
	Dec-18	6	6		n/a	
No first choice	Sep-19	n/a	16			
	#Jun-19	n/a	13			
	Mar-19	n/a	13			
	Dec-18	n/a	10			

An asterisk indicates the candidate received no responses. A dash indicates at least one respondent selected the candidate, but the percentage rounds down to zero.

How would you describe your level of enthusiasm for your first-choice candidate [CANDIDATE NAME]—are you extremely enthusiastic, very enthusiastic, mildly enthusiastic, or not that enthusiastic? **(Asked only of those who selected a first choice candidate, but total based on all.)**

	Extremely enthusiastic	Very enthusiastic	Mildly enthusiastic	Not that enthusiastic	Not sure	No first-choice candidate
Sep-19	28	39	16	2	-	16
#Jun-19	31	41	12	1	1	13

#Jun-19: Percentages are among likely Democratic caucus participants who said they would definitely or probably attend in person as opposed to participating in a virtual caucus.

Regardless of your level of enthusiasm, would you say your mind is made up to support [FIRST CHOICE CANDIDATE] or could you still be persuaded to support another candidate as your first choice? **(Asked only of those who selected a first choice candidate, but total based on all.)**

	Mind is made up	Could be persuaded	Not sure	No first-choice candidate
Sep-19	20	63	1	16

Which is more important to you personally: **(Read items. Rotate.)**

	That the winner of the Iowa Democratic caucus be a candidate for president with a strong chance of beating Donald Trump	That the winner of the Iowa Democratic caucus be a candidate for president who shares your positions on major issues	Not sure
Sep-19	63	31	6
#Jun-19	65	31	4
Dec-18	54	40	6

Do you think that Donald Trump's presidency has permanently changed the way American government works, or do you think it is possible that American government could return to the way it was before Trump once he leaves office?

	Permanently changed the way government works	Government will return to the way it was before Trump	Not sure
Sep-19	30	59	11

I'm going to mention positions some candidates have taken. For each, please tell me which of three options best fits your view: that you are personally comfortable with the position and candidates should run on it; that you are personally comfortable with the position but fear candidates running on it could cost Democrats the election; or that you are not comfortable with the position and think it is bad policy. **(Rotate list.)**

	Comfortable/ Should be policy	Comfortable/ could cost election	Not comfortable/ bad policy	Not Sure
"Medicare for All," shifting to a completely government-run health system	41	28	24	8
Free tuition to a public four-year college	36	25	31	8
A proposal called the Green New Deal	48	16	12	24
Raising taxes on the wealthy	74	13	7	6
Restoring the ban on assault-style weapons	69	15	8	8
Moving the country in a socialist direction	20	32	37	11

#Jun-19: Percentages are among likely Democratic caucus participants who said they would definitely or probably attend in person as opposed to participating in a virtual caucus.

I have a question about what you think makes a candidate electable. I'm going to mention some pairs of phrases that describe types of candidates. For each pair, please tell me which of the two better fits your definition of the more electable candidate. **(Rotate list. Alternate items)**

1 <sup>st</sup>				2 <sup>nd</sup>	Not Sure
16	Can excite the Democratic base	O	Can excite new voters to show up and vote	74	10
35	Will get in the mud as needed to take on Donald Trump	O	Will take the high road against Donald Trump	54	11
28	Takes positions that move the country to the left	O	Takes positions that seek to find common ground with Republicans	63	9
57	Represents a new generation of leadership	O	Has a long history of serving in government	28	14

Did you happen to watch all or part of the debate among 10 Democratic candidates that was on television last Thursday evening?

	Yes, all	Yes, part	No, did not watch	Not sure
Sep-19	21	35	38	6

Which is more important to you personally? **[Alternate choices.]**

	For Iowa to be the first test of Democratic presidential candidates, even if it means not everyone who wants to can participate on caucus night	For Iowa to hold a primary instead of a caucus so everyone can vote, even if it means Iowa would no longer be the first test	Not sure
Sep-19	42	44	14

## ABOUT THE POLL

The Iowa Poll, conducted September 14-18, 2019, for *The Des Moines Register*, CNN and Mediacom by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, is based on telephone interviews with 602 registered voters in Iowa who say they will definitely or probably attend the 2020 Democratic caucuses.

Interviewers with Quantel Research contacted 3,510 randomly selected active voters from the Iowa secretary of state's voter registration list by telephone. The sample was supplemented with additional phone number lookups. Interviews were administered in English. Responses for all contacts were adjusted by age, sex, and congressional district to reflect their proportions among active voters in the list.

Questions based on the sample of 602 voters likely to attend the 2020 Iowa Democratic caucuses have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 4.0 percentage points. This means that if this survey were repeated using the same questions and the same methodology, 19 times out of 20, the findings would not vary from the true population value by more than plus or minus 4.0 percentage points. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error.

Republishing the copyright Iowa Poll without credit to *The Des Moines Register*, CNN, and Mediacom is prohibited.

#Jun-19: Percentages are among likely Democratic caucus participants who said they would definitely or probably attend in person as opposed to participating in a virtual caucus.